

If these plans fail, taxpayers could have to pay billions of dollars if the Federal Government's Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation fails.

That is why Democrats have proposed A Better Deal to save our pensions that provides financing to put failing pension plans back on solid ground to ensure that they can meet their commitments to retirees today and workers for decades to come, prevents a single dollar of cuts to benefits retirees have earned, and it puts safeguards in place so that pension plans remain strong in order to be there for today's workers when they retire.

We need to bring these proposals to the floor so we can work together to protect the pensions that American workers have earned.

CELEBRATING FIVE GENERATIONS AND 125 YEARS OF VARNS AND HOOVER HARDWARE

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Varns and Hoover Hardware, which has been a fixture in the Middlebury community for more than 125 years.

The success and longevity of this family-owned business lies in the family's dedication to serving their neighbors and providing high-quality products with a friendly smile.

Small businesses like this are the backbone of the American economy, and it is a privilege to represent a family so devoted to the prosperity of their community for so many years.

To honor Varns and Hoover Hardware is to honor what it means to achieve the American Dream.

With ownership now being passed down to the fifth generation family member, Nathan Miller, I am grateful to be able to recognize such a pivotal moment in the history of this Hoosier family, their small business, and the community that they serve.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Varns and Hoover Hardware and in wishing them the best in all the years to come.

REMEMBERING BOB BANUELOS

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of a remarkable member of my staff and a remarkable member of my community, Bob Banuelos, who passed away suddenly last week.

Bob spent over 30 years working for the people of Orange County. Before joining my team, he also worked for my predecessor, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez.

Bob had deep roots in our community. He grew up on a small family farm in Fountain Valley and was a long-time member of the Orange County political environment.

Bob worked for the less fortunate throughout his community, and he was a friend to everybody he met.

Bob was also the first Native American candidate to run for Congress in Orange County in 1992, and he came close to winning. He changed Orange County politics forever.

I am saddened by his passing. He devoted his life to making Orange County a better place for everybody to live. We will all miss him, and we will never forget him.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. GIANFORTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Montana men's basketball team for an outstanding season and to wish them success in the 2018 NCAA Tournament.

The Grizzlies were regular season champions of the Big Sky Conference, going 16 to 2 in conference play.

Last weekend, the squad won the Big Sky Tournament.

They begin their journey in the NCAA Tournament tonight with a first-round game in Wichita, Kansas.

The Grizzlies will be strong contenders. Their defense is relentless, leading the Big Sky Conference this year. Every player on the floor contributes to their offense. They represent the spirit of Montana.

Congratulations also to Montana head coach Travis DeCuiere, who was named Coach of the Year in the Big Sky Conference. In his fourth season at the helm, he guided the Grizzlies to a 26-7 record and their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2013.

I know the folks in the Treasure State will join me in saying: "Up With Montana."

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GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, yesterday marked 1 month since the gunman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School cut short the lives of 17 students and teachers. These tragedies have become so common that the response of this Congress is practically routine: thoughts and prayers are offered, moments of silence held, and then we move on with no specific action on gun violence.

Madam Speaker, this is not enough. We need to heed the call of thousands of students across the country who organized walkouts and events with a simple message for us: It is time to act.

We need to be able to look these students in the eye and say: "We are doing

everything we can to protect you." But for too long, this institution has refused to do just that. We are not considering legislation to pass universal background checks. We have not debated restricting the sale of military assault weapons, bump stocks, and high-capacity magazines, or even lifting the ban on preventing our government from researching gun safety solutions.

Yesterday we did pass a bill with important resources for school safety, including a bipartisan provision I introduced with Representative MIKE BOST to help schools install panic buttons. That is an important first step, but really protecting our children is not possible without concrete measures to reduce gun violence.

I urge my colleagues to listen to the wisdom of the young people in our districts, and let's all find the courage to pass sensible gun safety laws and, finally, to save lives.

HONORING VETERAN HOMER VAUGHN WAGNON, JR.

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Homer Vaughn Wagnon, Jr., a veteran of World War II who left this world on November 29, having "just satisfied his life's ambitions," per the obituary provided for him.

Mr. Wagnon served our country in the infantry, fighting his way across France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany as he and his fellow members of the Greatest Generation pushed back against tyranny.

He continued his service to our country in private business, helping to build a post-World War II incredible economy as a mechanical engineer. His range of new products included mechanical rubber goods, radio and TV equipment, and items for naval ships and aircraft applications.

Mr. Wagnon leaves behind the love of his life, Darlene Raitt Wright, and Wagnon's 6 children, 11 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. His grandson Tariq Bokhari followed his grandfather's example: In distinction, he now serves as an outstanding member of the Charlotte City Council.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing condolences to the Wagnon family.

TRUMP IN SAN DIEGO

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, President Trump was in my hometown of San Diego this week. He went to inspect prototypes for his proposed border wall, a wall California doesn't want, doesn't need, and is an overly simplistic approach to a complex issue.